

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231475

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 231475

LUSAKA FOR EASUM; CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 4225 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PRETORIA
LONDON PARIS CAPE TOWN 18 OCT

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 4225

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, PFOR, SF

SUBJ: US STATEMENT ON APARTHEID, SPC, OCT 17

REF: USUN 4199

PUBLIC DELEGATE SEGEL'S STATEMENT ON APARTHEID IN
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (SPC) WAS WELL RECEIVED. NIGERIAN
REP ASKED THAT TEXT BE CIRCULATED AS COMMITTEE DOCUMENT,
WHICH PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT VOTE. NIGERIAN EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION THAT US HAD CHOSEN TO STATE CLEARLY ITS
POSITION TOWARD SA AND CONCERNING "FACTS AND CLAIMS"
WHICH HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT US POLICY. REPS OF ZAMBIA,
CANADA AND FRANCE SAID PRIVATELY THAT THEY WERE IMPRESSED
WITH FIRMNESS OF STATEMENT. AUSTRALIANS, MAURITANIANS,
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PAGE 02 STATE 231475

AND IRANIANS ALSO COMPLIMENTED SPEECH PRIVATELY. SOUTH AFRICAN

ARGUS PRESS CORRESPONDENT WAS STRUCK BY SERIOUSNESS OF
STATEMENT CONCERNING US POLICY TOWARD APARTHEID.
FOLLOWING IS TEXT, AS DELIVERED:

QUOTE ON THE OCCASION OF MY FIRST STATEMENT BEFORE THIS
COMMITTEE; ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, I WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU UPON
YOUR ELECTION, AND TO ASSURE YOU OF THE FULL COOPERATION
OF OUR DELEGATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE SAID AGAINST APARTHEID HAS BEEN
SAID. NOT ONE WORD HAS BEEN SAID IN DEFENSE OF APARTHEID.
AND RIGHTFULLY SO. IN A WORLD IN WHICH THERE ARE ALL TOO
MANY ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, APARTHEID IS AMONG THOSE WHICH
ARE ABSOLUTELY INDEFENSIBLE. THIS PERNICIOUS FORM OF SYSTEMATIZED
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION THAT CONTINUES TO REPRESS THE NON-
WHITE PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA HANGS HEAVY OVER THE CONSCIENCE
OF ALL MANKIND.

BUT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDRESS THE WRONGS OF APARTHEID?

THE WORLDWIDE ATTENTION THAT HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM,
PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE NATIONS THAT ARE MEMBERS
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IS A GREAT HELP. WE
COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR PERSISTENCE AND FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO
THE CAUSE OF ELIMINATING THIS UNJUST AND DEMEANING WAY OF
LIFE THAT IS IMPOSED UPON MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF THE
POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE UNITED STATES IS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE TAKEN
UNILATERAL ACTION TO HELP MOVE THIS PROBLEM TOWARD SOLUTION.
AND I JUST WANT TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO STATE, FOR THE RECORD,
WHAT THE UNITED STATES AND ITS CITIZENS HAVE ACTUALLY DONE
AND ARE DOING, BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCORRECT INFORMATION
DISSEMINATED IN THE PRESS AND IN THIS BUILDING, REGARDING
OUR GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES AND POSITION ON THIS IMPORTANT
MATTER.

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PAGE 03 STATE 231475

FOR ONE THING, THE UNITED STATES HAS STRONGLY URGED THE
RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIRMS WHICH HAVE
FACILITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA TO SET AN EXAMPLE BY IMPROVING
WORKING CONDITIONS, SALARIES, AND WAGES OF THEIR NON-
WHITE WORKERS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO DO NOT
AGREE WITH THIS POLICY, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS A HELP,
NOT A HINDRANCE. FURTHER, THIS POLICY HAS BORN FRUIT.
A NUMBER OF U.S. FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE NOW FOLLOWING

THE EXTRAORDINARY PRACTICE (EXTRAORDINARY FOR THAT COUNTRY) OF PROVIDING EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, REGARDLESS OF RACE. AMERICAN FIRMS ALSO HAVE SET THE PACE IN PROVIDING IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL, LEGAL AND MEDICAL BENEFITS TO NON-WHITE WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

SECONDLY, THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS WRONG FOR ANY COUNTRY TO ASSIST THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN ENFORCING ITS APARTHEID POLICIES. FOR THIS REASON, WE IMPOSED AN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA EVEN BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS DID SO. WE HAVE OBSERVED THIS EMBARGO VERY CAREFULLY AND CONTINUE TO DO SO. MOREOVER, WE HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN ANY MILITARY OR NAVAL COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THE LAST DECADE. AND, DESPITE ALLEGATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT COORDINATED DEFENSE STRATEGY WITH SOUTH AFRICA, NOR DO WE HAVE ANY INTENTION OF NOW INSTITUTING SUCH COOPERATION.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, WOULD LIKE APARTHEID TO END. TO END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA HAVE SUFFERED FAR TOO LONG UNDER THIS OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM.

WE KNOW FROM OUR OWN PAINFUL STRUGGLE WITH RACIAL DISCRIMINATION THAT CHANGE MUST BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY AND IN MANY FIELDS--EDUCATION, LABOR, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, HOUSING, VOTING RIGHTS, ETC.

MR CHAIRMAN:

WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT THE DIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL AND ECONOMIC GROUPS CREATES SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. BUT FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED
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PAGE 04 STATE 231475

SINCE THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO WAS ISSUED, AND ALTHOUGH SOME CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE, IT IS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOT RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE OF THIS CONSIDERED AND RESPONSIBLE DOCUMENT.

WE BELIEVE THAT APARTHEID CAN STILL BE ENDED PEACEFULLY. IT IS CLEARLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING CERTAINLY THOSE IN SOUTH AFRICA, THAT THE CHANGE COME ABOUT THIS WAY.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

THE UNITED STATES CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO RE-EXAMINE ITS POLICIES AND POSITION IN LIGHT OF PRESENT DAY REALITIES. WE SAY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA:

YOUR REPRESSIVE RACIAL SYSTEM IS INDEFENSIBLE. IT IS BOTH
WRONG AND UNWISE TO TRY TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN IT. WE
MOST STRONGLY URGE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO BRING A
TIMELY END TO ITS APARTHEID POLICIES AND RACIAL INJUSTICE,
AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS IN THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS
TO DO THIS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOUVERY MUCH, MR. CHAIRMAN. UNQUOTE
BENNETT UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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